

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 04497 041713Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 STRE-00 AF-10 USIE-00  
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07  
FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01  
TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 SSO-00 /104 W  
-----041754Z 129798 /40

O R 041605Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3694  
INFO ALL EC CAPS  
USMISSION MTN GENEVA  
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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DEPT PASS STR FOR STRAUSS ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, RH, EEC  
SUBJECT: RHODESIAN CHROME

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 4059. (B) STATE 98459

1. EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR INDUSTRY DAVIGNON CALLED ME IN  
MAY 4 VIGOROUSLY TO WARN US THAT SERIOUS TROUBLE WAS BREWING  
IF WE PERSISTED IN OUR PRESENT APPROACH TO STEEL PRODUCTS  
INCORPORATING CHROME. COMMISSION OFFICIAL AFTER INITIAL  
DISCUSSIONS WITH TREASURY REPORTED THAT NOT ONLY WAS IT  
TECHNICALLY ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH RHODESIAN FROM  
SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME BUT THAT IN OTHER WAYS AS WELL US  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS WENT FAR BEYOND RULE OF REASON.  
IT WAS CLEAR TO DAVIGNON THAT OUR PRESENT PROPOSALS COULD  
NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE COMMUNITY. HE HAD HIMSELF LOOKED  
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AT THE US LEGAL REQUIREMENT. WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE LAW  
HAD TO BE COMPLIED WITH, PRESENT US DRAFT WAS EXCESSIVELY  
RIGOROUS AND NOT REQUIRED BY US LAW. IT SEEMED THAT UNDER  
THE MANTLE OF ENFORCING RHODESIAN SANCTIONS, US IN FACT  
WAS CREATING SIGNIFICANT NEW TRADE BARRIER. THE COMMISSION  
HAD ACQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM AMERICAN STEEL COMPANIES  
WHICH EXPLICITLY INDICATED US INDUSTRY'S INTENTION TO USE

THE RHODESIAN CHROME EMBARGO FOR WIDER PROTECTIONIST PURPOSES. (I ASKED TO SEE THE EVIDENCE AND MAY RECEIVE IT IF MALTZAHN LEFT COPIES HERE.)

2. DAVIGONON SAID THAT AFTER THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR STRAUSS, THE COMMISSION HAD CONCLUDED, PERHAPS WRONGLY, THAT THE WILL EXISTED ON BOTH SIDES TO MANAGE SUCH TRADE PROBLEMS ON A REASONABLE, MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE BASIS. HE WAS GLAD THAT HE HAD SENT COMMISSION STAFF TO WASHINGTON BECAUSE NOW UNDER GROWING PRESSURE FROM THE MEMBER STATES HE WAS IN A POSITION TO SAY THAT THE COMMISSION WAS TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS. IT WAS CRITICAL, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOW CONSIDERABLY MORE FLEXIBILITY BECAUSE HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT THE MEMBER STATES AND THE EUROPEAN STEEL INDUSTRY COULD NOT LIVE WITH WHAT WE WERE PROPOSING. HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD KEEP MALTZAHN IN WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER TALKS. HE HOPED FOR AGREEMENT, BUT IF WE COULD NOT DEMONSTRATE A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH, HE COULD NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES IN EUROPE.

3. I TOLD HIM I WOULD TRANSMIT HIS MESSAGE, THAT I WAS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH THE DETAILED AMERICAN PROPOSALS, BUT THAT I HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COMMISSION'S COUNTER IDEAS WERE NOT SUFFICIENT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.  
HINTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, STEELS, TRADE AGREEMENTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ECBRU04497  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Message ID:** 0e87169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 EC BRUSSELS 4059, 77 STATE 98459  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RHODESIAN CHROME  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRD, RH, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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